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Item 856-B-5 Pr Ex 7.10: FBIS-LAT-78-74

APR 27 1978

Center

FBIS-LAT-78-74
Monday
17 April 1978
Vol VI No 74

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

LATIN AMERICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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DETAILS OF NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH BOLIVIA ANNOUNCED

PY150320Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 14 Apr 78 pp 2, 3 PY

[Text] Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, president of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], has announced the signing of a nuclear cooperation agreement between Argentina and Bolivia for joint research on the future Viacha nuclear research center, the processing of raw materials, security techniques in the radiological field and joint coordination of plans for the area. Admiral Castro Madero, who returned last night after a 3-day official visit to La Paz, Bolivia, reported that he signed the agreement yesterday morning in that city with his Bolivian counterpart, Capt Francisco Mariaca Salas. The head of CNEA said that "studies are being made for eventual implementation of the Viacha research center with a view to the possible transfer of technology."

He added: "We will support Bolivian nuclear development in accordance with the capabilities of CNEA, through the processing of raw materials and permanent contact between experts of the two countries." He then said that "the prospects for cooperation with Bolivia are very good and similar to the prospects with Peru."

The agreement signed in La Paz includes Argentine cooperation in the selection and construction of a research reactor in the Altiplano area of Viacha, 70 km from the Bolivian capital. The agreement specifies that Argentina will also transfer technology and equipment to Bolivia, in accordance with a possible later sale-purchase agreement linked to a program of personnel training.

Bolivia has radioactive mineral resources and only a few years ago entered the field of research in peaceful use of nuclear energy. The state-owned Bolivian Nuclear Energy Commission was created for this purpose and has responsibility for this type of program. This commission, after some exploration in the arid and cold areas of the southeast, in the region of Lipez, found some radioactive minerals. Last year, through special agreement, the Bolivian commission obtained the transference of U.S. equipment for the installation of a small research plant. The commission's current priority problem is human resources, which will now be solved gradually with Argentine cooperation.

The agreement signed by Castro Madero and Mariaca also includes the development of long range plans, such as the installation of a nuclear plant for peaceful use and the production of electrical energy.

POLITICAL MAGAZINES EXAMINE PRESIDENT'S 29 MARCH SPEECH

PY142225Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 13 Apr 78 p 10 PY

[Excerpts] With very few exceptions, analysis of the 29 March presidential speech to governors is the main subject in the political press this week.

ADELANTE, a radical weekly edited by [Radical Civic Union President] Ricardo Balbin, emphasizes the armed forces institutional proposal and points out "the unyielding action of small but powerful groups which are carrying out a systematic campaign against any move toward political opening. These groups are in charge of keeping alive the campaign to discredit political parties and their leading representatives." It later adds that no member of the armed forces "can be surprised by a campaign which is aimed at showing that civilians don't want change, but are merely impatient for elections."

The communist-leaning INFORME, whose editor is Felix Cantero, holds that "the presidential statement certainly is not a simple formula for national and foreign consumption. It recognizes the fact that citizens do exist, mainly and necessarily as members of the political parties." On the recognition of representatives within the parties, it adds that "nobody can dispute that it would be desirable, in view of possible political dispersion, for strong and truly representative political trends to emerge.

"But a political party cannot become an imposition on the people. A future system of political parties cannot be created by a single man (through statutes or other procedures which subordinate parties to the state). The world and our country have already experienced authoritarian and tyrannical governments unable to generate great support, which have invariably failed."

CORREO DE LA SEMANA reproduced a report by its editor, Francisco G. Manrique, published in the newspaper CORDOBA. He maintains that "politicians who are now separated from the levers which they could not handle, are trying to create a climate in which, supported by Argentines' bad memory, they can emerge as the saviors of a military failure, when they themselves are the cause of the nation's shame."

'COMMITTEE OF 25' UNIONS MAKES PUBLIC APPEAL

PY131850Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 12 Apr 78 p 8 PY

[Text] According to a press communique released yesterday, 25 so-called "INDEPENDENT" or "NONALINED" unions have held a meeting at which they have decided to "MAKE A PUBLIC APPEAL FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL WORKERS MOVEMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE 'COMMITTEE OF 25,' AS THE ONLY EFFECTIVE AND APPROPRIATE MEANS OF GUARANTEEING AN ACTIVE AND PERMANENT PRESENCE OF THE UNIONS WITHIN THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND OF PROMOTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A FUTURE IN LINE WITH THE COUNTRY'S POTENTIAL, ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH THE REST OF THE SECTORS WHICH MAKE UP THE SOCIAL BODY OF THE NATION."

The communique is signed by Antonio Baldassini, secretary general of the Postal and Telecommunications Workers Federation, Juan Horvath for the State Employees Association, Demeterio Lorenzo for the Food Industry Employees Federation, Alberto Serrano for the Tire Plant Workers Federation, Luis Etchezar for the La Fraternidad Union and Jorge Lujan for the glassworkers union.

These leaders who are all members of the 'Committee of 25' submitted a general report to the other persons who attended the meeting "WITH REGARD TO BOTH INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF THE WORKERS MOVEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES."

It was also reported that the 'Committee of 25' will meet today to analyze its recent contacts with government officials.

Labor Minister Hears Committee

PY141538Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1646 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr--Gen Horacio Liendo, labor minister, today heard from 12 members of the "Committee of 25" on their position regarding Argentina's attendance at the Geneva meeting and all the problems affecting the workers and their unions, as reported by Fernando Donaires, leader of the paper workers union, who is the spokesman for the group.

Donaires said that "all the problems affecting the unions were raised and now Minister Liendo will evaluate them and will give us an answer at the appropriate time."

When he was asked if the 25 believed that conditions exist for Argentina to attend the Geneva meeting--which it did not do last year--he said that "the government's answer and evaluation has a lot to do with this." When the reporter persisted and asked him: "But in your opinion, as union leaders, do these conditions exist?" Donaires just avoided the question and left with the other union leaders.

Roberto Garcia said that during the meeting held yesterday, the group of 25 evaluated the results of the Monday meeting with Liendo, and today "we raised all the local and international problems. Now it is up to the government to give us an answer to our problems." Garcia also said that they informed Minister Liendo of their intention to meet again to consider the government's answer.

PROPERTY OF MRS PERON, ROCAMORA IMPOUNDED

PY131612Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Apr--Federal judge Guillermo Federico Rivarola has (?ordered) the preventive arrest of former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron and former Interior Minister Alberto Luis Rocamora for abuse of authority, and has ordered the impoundment of their goods for 5 million peso each.

Rocamora signed Resolution No 215 of 18 October 1974 by which the property located at 711 Moreno Street, a national monument, is returned to the Justicialist Party. He also requested and had the former president sign Decree No 1533 of 20 November 1974, insisting that the ministerial resolution be carried out by the accounting office. In this manner it was made possible to return the property to that political party.

Mrs Peron was notified about the judicial resolution but has not appealed in defense yet. The former minister, who is not under arrest appealed the order.

LATEST DENTENTION, RELEASE FIGURES REPORTED

PY151259Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0415 GMT 15 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Apr--Between 31 March and 14 April, 21 persons were arrested and placed at the disposal of the national executive authority, while 16 others were released and three others were authorized to leave the country, in accordance with the terms of law 21,650.

ARMY SUPPLIES INFORMATION ON BRAVO'S ARREST

PY141526Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1241 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr--It was reported here today that teachers' union leader Alfredo Bravo remains under arrest and under the observation of military authorities.

Gen Reynaldo Bignone, secretary general of Army Headquarters, informed the teachers confederation concerning Bravo's situation, and stated that Bravo is "under constant evaluation to determine as quickly as possible when the reasons for his dentention were gone." [as received]

Bravo has been under arrest for several months without ever having been referred to ordinary courts.

At the time of his arrest, it was feared that he had been the victim of kidnapers because no one took responsibility for his capture until several days after his disappearance. Finally, after first having denied it, authorities admitted that he was under arrest and at the disposal of the executive branch.

THREE DOCTORS REPORTED KIDNAPED ON SAME DAY

PY131706Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 13 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Text] A third doctor, who worked in a dispensary for the poor at a La Matanza housing site, has disappeared after being seized by armed men on April 5, it was reported yesterday.

A habeas corpus writ has been filed before a federal judge in an effort to trace Dr Francisco Manuel Garcia Fernandez, who was abducted by men claiming to be members of the security forces on the night of April 5. On the same day two other doctors, Norberto Ignacio Liwski and his wife Hilda, disappeared.

Dr Hilda Norma Erenu de Liwski was taken away by 15 armed men after the ambulance in which she was being driven to treat a patient was stopped near the Centro Gallego Hospital. The ambulance driver was later freed near San Justo. The doctor's husband has not been seen since that day and habeas corpus writs for both have been filed.

The writ for Dr Garcia Fernandez was filed by his wife, Mrs Gladys Juliana Fernandez de Garcia Fernandez. She said that her husband was abducted in Almagro. He works at the Centro Gallego Hospital and the Santa Rita private clinic in San Justo as a pediatrician.

In the writ she also claims that a fourth doctor connected with the dispensary for the poor, at the 17th block of a housing complex at the Camino de Cintura and Crovara in Matanzas has also been abducted. She said his name is Dr Jorge Eduardo Heuman.

In her writ, Mrs Garcia Fernandez says that her husband has always spoken out against terrorism. She asks the judge to check whether he may have been detained as a result of a mass held in the San Justo cathedral to protest against the arrest of a woman neighbour in the housing complex who was later expelled from the country, leaving her husband and two children behind. She also claims that a number of people who attended the mass were taken away.

BRIEFS

MACHINERY EXPORTS TO MEXICO--Through a letter of intent signed in 1976, an Argentine automotive firm has now reached an agreement with a Mexican firm for the export of dies, calibrating apparatus and calipers which will be used for the stamping of automobile bodies in Mexico. The value of the consignment amounts to $3.5 million. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY]

CREDIT FOR POLAND--Buenos Aires, 10 Apr--The Argentine National Bank has decided to enlarge from $15 to $30 million the credit granted to Handlowy Warszawie Sploka Akcyjna Bank of Warsaw, Poland, to be used exclusively for importing Argentine products. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2150 GMT 10 Apr 78 PY]

BANZER COMMENTS ON ELECTORAL, ECONOMIC MATTERS

PY141643Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] There will be no salary increase. There will be no currency devaluation. The use of natural gas will be favored over that of petroleum. A new strategy will be drawn up to solve the maritime problem. If the left wins the elections, power will be handed over to them. These and other statements were the answers given by President Hugo Banzer Suarez to the 35 questions asked him by Bolivian newsmen and correspondents of foreign news agencies. The president had called a press conference at the government palace to satisfy the (?persistent curiosity) of the newsmen.

On political matters, the president said that it is premature to speak about the ideologies of the political parties and even more premature to speak about their activities, because so far they have not submitted their campaign platforms to the electoral court.

Referring to a plan to Balkanize the political parties and divide them to a point where they lose their normal strength, General Banzer said that he did not know about this matter and that therefore the government cannot be accused of that maneuver. He also denied that the government was willingly cooperating in Gen Juan Pereda Asbun's election campaign with its resources and other material means. Regarding the use of official communications media the president said that the doors of Bolivian television are open to significant political currents of opinion, whenever their proposals are of the high and responsible quality they should offer to the public.

One of the questions dealt with the position of the government regarding its acceptance of salary increases at the present time. The president answered: [begin Banzer recording] No general salary increase is favorable for the country, unless it is (?based on) an increase of productivity in all sectors. In simpler terms, an increase in income should be justified by an increase of output. If there is no increase of output, a salary increase would be inflationary, and in a very short time the worker's salary would lose its purchasing power, so in fact it would only be deception to the worker. [end recording]

He was also asked whether the next national congress would occupy itself with studying a reform of the constitution, as had been announced on an earlier occasion. The president gave this reply: [begin Banzer recording] [words indistinct] The congress, elected and called together according to the rules of the present constitution, will work as a constituent assembly. That constituent assembly, as stipulated in the decree announcing elections, will dedicate its first session [words indistinct] specifically to studying the reforms required by the country. If it is decided that the constitution needs reforming, the assembly will reform it. [end recording] He added that the government is studying a reform project, as a contribution to the work of the assembly, which will be submitted to the constituent assembly.

Regarding the general economy of the country, the president asserted that it is good in general, although it is going through a stage of transitory problems as a result of the slump in tin prices. Let us listen to what he said: [begin Banzer recording] The economy of the country is developing well, but in the general economic picture there are transitory factors or problems. It is obvious [words indistinct] I would like to characterize that transitory situation as difficult to handle, but not impossible. The national and foreign press asks what the causes of that transitory situation are. In the first place, the price slump of tin and many other minerals; in the second place, the decrease or our hydrocarbons production, simultaneously with the increased domestic use of hydrocarbons at subsidized prices, which leaves a narrow margin for export.

We believe, however, that the situation can be managed, that it is not critical. I now refer to the financial situation. As I have said, the economic situation is good. [end recording]

The fuel problem was approached in the following manner by General Banzer: [begin Banzer recording] Regarding fuel prices [words indistinct]. Fuels are heavily subsidized on the domestic market. In the case of Bolivia, we believe that energy consumption should, if possible, be restructured toward the use of gas. It is a relatively cheap fuel in comparison with others and it can be used not only in the home but also, according to technological experiments in other countries, for motor vehicle transport. [end recording]

Additional Comments

PY142334Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program]

[Excerpts] This afternoon President Hugo Banzer held a press conference, answering questions which reporters had submitted to him beforehand, in the Room of Mirrors of government house. Banzer answered a question related to the possibility of the country renouncing the 1904 treaty. The president said: An international treaty is an organic instrument which takes into account various provisions and as such cannot and should not be renounced as a whole, because it generally perfects a previous situation and sets the basis for future agreements.

The point is that the truce agreement contained the latent danger of another confrontation, another Chilean aggression against Bolivia, while our country was not prepared to defend itself. Renouncing the 1904 treaty would mean returning to this situation under similar circumstances, he added. The president confirmed that the signing of the 1904 treaty permitted the later signing of treaties on beneficial free transit throughout the territory of that country. There are numerous cases in which treaties, especially bilateral ones, do not fully satisfy one of the parties. On Bolivia's behalf I can attempt a legal denouncement of treaties, but this would not attract attention and has (?never been) looked on with sympathy.

Banzer said that the legal method is to obtain a revision of those treaties which perpetuate and tend to perpetuate unjust situations. But this must be done bilaterally with the assent of the parties involved. The revision of the Panama Canal treaties is a good example. [passage indistinct]

Regarding the matter of Chile and international relations, Banzer answered an interesting question. Someone reminded him that in 1975, during a press interview, he guaranteed that he would resign as president if the negotiations with Chile failed. Banzer said that those recalling those remarks and those demanding his resignation did not place him in power.

The armed forces, with participation of the people, placed me in power, he said. He insisted that although the answer he had given to the woman reporter's question at that time was informal, the opposition political parties were trying to draw concrete conclusions from it. In other words, his excellency maintains that some presidents can only be removed from their post by those who placed them there. It seems that President Banzer has not taken into account the fact that although he did not place General Torres in power, he removed him from power.

GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZES NONATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS WITH CHILE

PA161207Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1920 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] La Paz, 15 Apr (LATIN)--The Bolivian Armed Forces have reiterated that they will not attend any future tripartite meetings with their Chilean and Peruvian counterparts, but explained that they will maintain "permanent contacts" with the Peruvian military. Gen Victor Gonzalez, chief of the general staff of the armed forces high command, said here last night that the Bolivian decision not to attend any further military meetings held among the three countries "has already been made." He repeated previous official statements that Bolivia's participation in such tripartite meetings would not be justified after this country's diplomatic break with Chile on 17 March. "We have nothing to talk about with the armed forces of those countries," he added. General Gonzalez explained, nonetheless, that Bolivia's absence from those meetings does not eliminate the possibility of flexible "permanent contacts" between the Bolivian and Peruvian militaries. With Peru, he remarked, "we have always maintained harmonious cooperation in all areas."

Military meetings at the highest level between Bolivia, Chile and Peru were held in 1975. Since then, three meetings have been held in the cities of Lima, Santiago and Santa Cruz (Bolivia).

DETAILS GIVEN ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINA

PY142127Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Apr 78 p 9 PY

[Text] Argentina is interested in experimenting with a system of technical aid to help Bolivia develop its own research in nuclear energy and to explore for radioactive minerals in this country. This information was released by the Mines Ministry after Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, president of Argentina's National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], met with Jorge Constantini, director of planning of the Bolivian Mines Ministry; Alvaro Ugalde, under secretary for mining; and Francisco Mariaca, director of the Bolivian Nuclear Energy Commission.

The aid plan is divided into two phases: one of them deals with the training of personnel at the nuclear research center of Bariloche (Argentina); and the other deals with installation of a nuclear research center in Bolivia with Argentine advisers and equipment. At the same time Argentina wants to give technical aid in the prospecting and exploration for radioactive minerals. Argentina had started its own nuclear program by training personnel at technical and university level, and later went into the exploitation of its own radioactive minerals.

The initial agreements between Bolivia and Argentina will be signed during the visit which Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Montes will pay to Bolivia.

CREATION OF REGIONAL POLITICAL BLOCS REPORTED

PY141408Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2033 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 13 Apr--The already complex Bolivian electoral scene was further complicated today by the announcement of the formation of regional blocs among the political parties. The first regional bloc will be formed in Cochabamba with a basically regionalist platform demanding the decentralization of national funds to benefit the Cochabamba region, located 400 km south of La Paz. Similar blocs will be created in La Paz and Santa Cruz, according to assurances.

It was reported that the regional blocs "wish to participate in the upcoming elections with their own candidates for the congress but do not wish to present regional presidential candidates. They want to establish an authentic regional policy without outdated separatism."

TWO MORE POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTERED; TOTAL NOW 20

FY141727Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Apr 78 FY

[Excerpt] Julio Mantilla, president of the electoral court, has reported regarding the registration of political parties that the following have complied with this requirement in the last few hours: The Bolivian Socialist Falange of the Left, represented by (Enrique Rivero), and the so-called National Unity Committee [CUN], represented by Gaston Villa and Ronald MacLean. Including these registrations there are now 20 political organizations which will participate in the 9 July elections. The president of the National Electoral Court also stated that the election process is insured, because all measures are being taken to meet mass participation by the voters.

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR UNITY FRONT FORMED

FY140135Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Apr 78 FY

[Text] The Democratic and Popular Unity Front [Frente de Unidad Democratica y Popular--FUDP] was founded at noon today. It is a coalition of several leftist parties which support Hernan Siles Zuazo, former national president and current chief of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], as candidate for the presidency. The charter which created the new alliance, which is open to modifications in the future, was signed by Siles Zuazo as represenative of the MNRI; Jorge Koller Cueto, chief of the Bolivian Communist Party; Antonio Aranibar Quiroga, secretary general of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left; Guillermo Aponte Burela, secretary general of the Bolivian Socialist Party and Luis Sandoval Moron, member of the Movement of the National Left [Movimiento de Izquierda Nacional]. The charter indicates that the FUDP will contribute toward electoral unity through agreements or pacts with other opposition forces which support the process of the national revolution and reject the continuation of [words indistinct].

GUEVARA ARZE STRESSES NEED FOR CIVILIAN CANDIDATE

FY121326Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Apr 78 FY

[Excerpt] Walter Guevara Arze, top leader of the Authentic Revolutionary Party [PRA], has stated that it is necessary, in view of the political situation now existing in the country because of the electoral process, to present a single civilian presidential candidate. He said that the only ones who have been on electoral platforms in the last few days are members of the armed forces. He stated that all the roads to reach the goal of a single civilian candidate should be sought by the political parties and their leaders.

BRIEFS

IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS--The Foreign Ministry has informed Santa Cruz Department that Chilean citizens residing in Santa Cruz, whose visas have expired or are about to expire will not be able to renew them; therefore those people will have to return to Chile. [Montero Radio Norte in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Apr 78 FY]

TROOP MOVEMENTS ON ARGENTINE BORDER DENIED

PA151938Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1900 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Porto Alegre, Brazil, 15 April--The Third Army headquarters today denied reports of troop movements on the border with Argentina as a result of the arrest of five Brazilian peasants by Argentine authorities. The peasants were arrested 1 week ago as they were fishing in Argentine waters off Corrientes Province. They were taken to the city of Obera.

The Brazilian Army headquarters in the border area investigated the incident and indicated that there was evidence that "the prisoners were being well treated by the Argentine police." The authorities added that such incidents are common in the area, and that the action by the Argentine police was justified since those arrested were in Argentine waters. Two of the peasants involved have already been released.

Col Alvaro Goulart, chief of the 5th Section, Third Army, declined to comment in detail on the matter. He said: "One must realize that the mobilization of troops is a very serious matter which must be decided upon by the president of the republic."

JOINT COMMISSION WITH GDR AGREES TO INCREASE TRADE

PY112002Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 8 Apr 78 p 18 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Bilateral trade between Brazil and the GDR, which is now less than $150 million yearly, may reach $1.2 billion within the next 3 years if a number of measures for an adjustment between consortiums of Brazilian and GDR companies is approved.

This is one of the main points in the final document of the meeting of the joint commission from both countries which ended yesterday at Itamaraty. At the meeting, the Brazilian delegation, headed by Ambassador Joao Paulo Paranhos do Rio Branco, presented a proposal prepared by Brasilinvest, with an industrial cooperation project in the energy transmission lines sector in third country markets, within the framework of trade and payments agreement signed in 1976 by the two countries.

To increase trade between Brazil and the GDR, the two delegations discussed the possibility of carrying out a number of trade operations, to be established within 3 years. These operations, which will be established through amendments for trade companies from both countries, will be carried out in accordance with the trade and payments agreement. The two delegations have agreed that the adjustment should be made no later than 30 June by the interested companies. The details will be prepared by the trade companies.

The importance of this adjustment is evident in the comparison of numbers, considering that trade last year reached $150 million--Brazilian exports reached $121.6 million, while GDR exports reached $30.2 million. With the adjustment, trade is expected to reach $400 million yearly during the 3-year period.

Brazilian exports to East Germany at the moment reach $600 million, including coffee wheat fodder and soybean oil. In this total, it is important to point out that manufactured and semimanufactured goods, machinery and equipment accounted for $90 million. Also, GDR exports to Brazil have been limited to chemicals, fertilizers, potassium, basic goods imported through third countries, machinery and equipment which are not made in the country. Greater emphasis is placed on basic goods because machinery and equipment reach one third of total sales.

Regarding the proposal by Brasilinvest, it was pointed out that if this proposal is accepted by the GDR Government, West German [as published] companies, when participating in bids, must call upon the Brazilian companies to supply equipment and services. It was also agreed that this kind of cooperation will not be limited to the sector of energy transmission. Other areas may also be included.

O GLOBO REVEALS SOVIET, FRENCH URANIUM OFFERS

PY141701Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1633 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Apr--The newspaper O GLOBO revealed today that the Soviet Union and France have offered the sale of enriched uranium to Brazil to supply the nuclear plants which are being built in this country.

Citing Carlos Cilus Martins, director of the Brazilian company NUCLEBRAS, O GLOBO pointed out that the Soviet proposal is more advantageous than the Brazilian negotiations with the European consortium URENCO made up of Great Britain, the FRG and the Netherlands.

O GLOBO did not mention what action had been taken on these proposals.

According to some observers, Brazil has signed with the United States and URENCO contracts for the supply of enriched uranium to feed the nuclear plants of Angra do Reis which are being built near Rio de Janeiro.

Nevertheless, they pointed out that the opposition expressed in the Netherlands and the new nuclear nonproliferation law adopted in the United States endanger the fulfillment of these contracts.

According to the latest predictions made by Furnas, the company in charge of building the first Brazilian nuclear plant (Angra I), it will begin operations only toward the end of 1979, 2 years behind the original schedule.

The operation of the nuclear plants Angra II and Angra III will begin only by 1984 and 1985, respectively.

The first shipment of enriched uranium by URENCO will arrive by 1981.

Purchase of Soviet Uranium Denied

PY150230Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 15 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Sources from the Brazilian Power Companies Inc. [ELETROBRAS] have denied that the Brazilian Government may purchase uranium for its Angra do Reis nuclear plants from the Soviet Union.

The sources noted that rumors regarding this purchase are part of an attempt by some experts of this sector to force URENCO--the enterprise which will supply the fuel for the nuclear plants--to refrain from creating further problems in supplying uranium to Brazil.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS ANGRA PROGRESS WITH DEPUTIES

PY150249Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Apr 78 p 21 PY

[Text] The Soviet Union has offered to supply enriched uranium to Brazil under a long-term contract. Price conditions are more advantageous than those established with URENCO (the enterprise which is to supply uranium to Angra II and III) but similar to those of the first supply contract signed between Brazil and Westinghouse for Angra I.

This information was released yesterday by Carlos Cilus Martins, a director of the Brazilian Nuclear Corporations [NUCLEBRAS], at the site where the three Brazilian nuclear plants are being built, while speaking to a group of federal deputies who are members of the science and technology committee.

The Soviet Union has already supplied enriched uranium to the FRG, France and Great Britain. Cilus Martins reported that France had offered to sell enriched uranium for the Brazilian plants under the same conditions proposed by URENCO.

Cilus Martins said: To have a guaranteed long-term supply, we must develop our own enrichment technology. To this end, we are preparing to develop our skills in this area.

In the briefing given to the deputies, directors of the entities involved in this project emphasized the priority treatment given to security. Licinio Seabra, president of Furnas (the enterprise in charge of building Angra I) said: "Everything is being done, keeping in mind that security has priority. Today, we received a Westinghouse report noting that thus far the Angra I plant has been built in strict observance of the highest world standards demanded for this type of building."

Seabra acknowledged that the fire which destroyed a warehouse was improperly handled but noted that the administrative errors had already been corrected. He said: "Since these errors have already been corrected, it is not proper to use this accident as a basis to question the safety of the plant. Reports that there were 71 fires are not true." He admitted that there were problems with the structure of the building but noted that these problems were already solved. In reply to a question asked by one of the deputies, Seabra admitted that the change of technology from Angra I (American) to Angra II and III (German) will demand a readjustment of personnel and an even larger stock of parts. This surplus stock will mean no more than a 5-percent increase in the overall cost of maintenance. However, he was not able to convert this percentage into figures.

Already 2 years behind schedule, Angra I should begin operation in the last quarter of 1979 (it had originally been planned to begin operation in late 1977). According to Sergio Mota, Furnas' director of operations, "in any case, this plant must be incorporated into the southeast system by the second half of 1979, otherwise we will have energy supply problems."

Problems are arising in keeping to the timetable of Angra II and III, because the construction enterprise is already having difficulties in the early stages (erecting stakes) [estaqueamento]. Angra II should be incorporated into the system by mid-1984, and Angra III, a year later. Thus far, these two projects have been delayed more than 6 months.

Deputies Luiz Couto (MDB) [Brazilian Democratic Movement], Pedro Faria (MDB), Otacilio Nunes (MDB), Antonio Florencio (ARENA) [National Renewal Alliance], and Nina Ribeiro (ARENA), who visited the plant, expressed their concern over recently disclosed problems. This concern was elicited by press reports released in recent weeks containing charges against those who are responsible for this project. Both the Furnas and NUCLEBRAS directors denied the existence of further problems.

Yet one engineer who is working at the plant reported that a few days ago there was a 7-meter high tide which almost flooded the reactor building. "We had to build an embankment of rocks in a hurry to avoid a flood which could have considerably delayed the project," he said.

Hervasio Carvalho, president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN), said that the government does not want to dedicate a plant hastily, because this would involve risks.

He added: Brazil is a country whose source of energy is primarily based on hydroelectric power. Therefore, its first nuclear plant must not fail. Everything is being done calmly, even spending more time than normal. We want to dedicate a good plant, without worrying about dates which might only indicate that we were seeking hegemony in Latin America.

FIGUEIREDO ACCEPTS ARENA PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

FY112145Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Apr 78 p 3 FY

[Speech by Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo to national ARENA convention in Brasilia on 9 April accepting nomination as presidential candidate]

[Excerpts] I accept, with a deep feeling for the high responsibility to which I will be committed, ARENA's [National Renewal Alliance] nomination for the presidential elections. In my name and that of the eminent administrator and public servant Governor Aureliano Chaves, who has been nominated to run for the vice presidency, I thank the illustrious national convention of the party for the confidence it has shown in us.

I believe that the structure which will appropriately implement national aspirations, inspired by the Christian values which are the basis of Brazilian society, is based on an active Congress, representing the electorate's various trends and made up of political figures who value their roles as two-way links between the people and the government. It is also based on a dynamic judicial branch respected for its impartiality and respected by the government in all instances, and on an executive branch which is aware of the active, upright and politically and administratively strong role it has to exercise to continue to achieve national objectives.

I assert that this is a revolutionary determination which will accompany us from the beginning. Resorting to exceptional measures due to dangerous problems of the time, especially those pertaining to security, has not destroyed the ideals, essentially inspired by democracy, which gave a legitimate basis to the revolution of 31 March 1964 and which ensure its continuity.

Corruption and subversion have been its enemies, as they should be the enemies of any government. But the revolution did not limit itself to this struggle; through 14 years of success and errors its achievements show that the directives outlined were quite ambitious and not seriously restricted. But this is not seen by the shortsighted emotional factions, extremists and fools. We are now closer to the democratic goal and we will achieve it, thus confirming that the dynamic and never immobile revolution is active and not stagnant.

Viewing institutional reorganization, the reforms cannot be completed in a set period of time. It is essential that they be progressive so that society is not overwhelmed and the government disarmed. Therefore, we will have to seek measures that harmonize freedom of the individual with society's security, maintain a free press which is aware of its responsibilities, support a political party organization capable of following the electorate's trends, and build a labor organization giving just value to the labor force.

And to speak of the labor force is to speak of a potentially active population of 110 million Brazilians, a magnificent potential not as yet fully utilized.

With ever-greater determination, we must carry out the revolutionary work of reducing social disparities.

I promise a great effort to promote professional training, to eradicate malnutrition, to improve our people's health, to do away with supply deficiencies which we still have, and to administer hygienic needs as well as the security of millions of Brazilian workers.

If elected, I will assume with determination my share of responsibility for improving the Brazilian man and for the prevalence of the national interest. And, in guiding the economy, I will not depart from a course of action aimed at integral growth and a reduction of regional disparities.

I believe that guiding the economy is a government function which cannot be passed to someone else. In addition to sectors over which the state must admittedly exert control for reasons of national security, it is up to the government to make pioneering investments which cannot attract private enterprise but which can be transferred whenever private enterprise is willing to take over. The government must also regulate the entry, application and repatriation of the foreign capital which is indispensable to a developing country and which must be treated in a way not to weaken but to strengthen native capital. The government must also insure that the influence of economic power is properly restrained, particularly multinational economic power, with the sole aim of bringing about a leveling of forces and, consequently, social balance. In addition to all that, the government must encourage and support the prevalence of free enterprise.

I look at economic guidance as an all-encompassing task intended to promote, on the one hand and with identical interest, multiplication of goods and services, expansion of the job market and increases in the living standards of the community as a whole through better distribution of the nation's income; and, on the other hand, to hold down inflation, which erodes the buying power of salaries, by maintaining a growth rate compatible with our possibilities and with the limitations of our balance of payments.

I intend to give attention on a priority basis to agriculture and livestock production, especially as a source of food, to supply both internal and export demands.

Those objectives would be beyond our reach if we were to adopt an isolationist attitude, blind to the evidence that we live in a "worldwide village." To achieve those objectives, fraternal international coexistence will be important.

Of course, such an idea of coexistence has traditionally guided our foreign policy, which, as I see it, must be firmly directed at obtaining a more just international trade order and monetary structure; inflexibly demanding respect for regional self-determination; diligently seeking to open new commercial markets; acting objectively and realistically for the advancement of the national interest in ever-wider circles, beginning in the American continent, which is our immediate political environment; and generously cooperating for the maintenance of international security and peace. I think that this brief sketch shows that Brazil can enter the community of nations and still preserve its way of life, character and territorial integrity.

Gentlemen of this convention: I will not pretend to hide the fact that the suggestion of my name to ARENA by its honorary president, Gen Ernesto Geisel, was made through a revolutionary procedure which has been instituted by the armed forces since 1964 in response to the nation's appeal.

Since the armed forces have shouldered the responsibility of the revolutionary process, there is no lack of modesty in paying them my tribute.

As a soldier I received this nomination as a mission to be carried out. As a candidate I will take off my uniform to engage in the essentially civilian activities of a citizen seeking the nation's presidency and later, I hope, those of the nation's president. Then I will have to insure the continuity of a program of political, economic and social consolidation which is being unfolded in stages, without being afraid of reformulating concepts, provided tolerance is not confused with permissiveness or leniency with violation of rules pertaining to the security of both the individual and society.

Therefore, this is a time when politicians must act with responsibility. This is a time of even greater responsibility for ARENA, which is the majority party and will continue to be as long as an esprit de corps within the party prevails over personal misunderstandings and local interests. I promise you that I will dedicate myself to my duties at all times. And let no one dismay in his efforts devoted to the electoral campaign; let no one mar that campaign with demagogic arguments when we have the accomplishments of the 1964 revolution to be proclaimed at all times; let no one dismay in his determination to win at the polls, a triumph which will strengthen the party and guarantee the rapid implementation of those reforms so anxiously awaited by a nation which wants order, tranquillity, security, and political stability without stagnation or immobility--a nation which is being renewed by the numerical prevalence of young people who have their eyes on the new horizons of the future.

The times call for work by everyone. More than anything else, development is a state of mind motivating our most routine actions and our most vital decisions. And that state of mind will supply the energy to a society which wants to improve and organize itself free from arbitrary rulings and within the Christian principles conferring dignity on man, such as the equality of opportunity and morality in behavior.

The times call for reconciliation and for understanding without demeaning accommodation but also without intransigence, for the benefit of the nation.

May God give me energy and enlightenment to honor the trust conferred upon me and to fulfill the hopes placed in me.

THREE CIVILIANS APPOINTED TO CABINET POSTS

PY142333Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2316 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 14 April--It was reported here today that President Augusto Pinochet has accepted resignations submitted by the ministers of foreign affairs, agriculture and transportation. Three civilians have been appointed to those positions and the rest of the cabinet members have been confirmed in their posts. Hernan Cubillos will replace Vice Adm Patricio Carvajal as foreign minister. Alfonso Marquez de la Plata will replace Gen Mario Mac-Kay as agriculture minister, and Jose Luis Federicci will replace Gen Raul Vargas as transportation minister.

President Pinochet's cabinet was previously made up of 21 ministers, of which 13 were military men and 8 were civilian. With the new reorganization there are 11 civilians and 10 military. It was reported that the new ministers will be sworn in next Monday.

PINOCHET DENIES POLITICAL OPENING FOR 'POLITICIANS'

PA150132Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0110 GMT 16 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 15 April--President Augusto Pinochet said here today that anyone who thinks that the military government is creating an opening to turn over power to politicians soon is mistaken. Speaking at a dinner given to 286 mayors of all Chilean districts, the president said that the recent cabinet reshuffle was merely aimed at involving civilians in government tasks. He said: "The military government is not open to politicians. They are finished. The opening has been made exclusively so that civilians may have more participation in the regime, so that they can cooperate with the government and not stand aloof, thinking that government tasks are exclusively for the military." He added that "everyone, civilians and military, must work together," stressing that the advance toward new Chilean civilian institutions will be made gradually. He said: "We must not allow the ambitions of some politicians and evil-minded persons to force us to hasten a process which must be conducted slowly, methodically and without haste. This is the only way that we can achieve our goals."

LEIGH SEES RESIGNATION OF JUNTA AS POSSIBILITY

PY150156Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2249 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 14 Apr--The commander of the Chilean Air Force, Gen Gustavo Leigh, has admitted that he has suggested the possibility of the government junta resigning as a last resort to break a foreign blockade. The high-ranking member of the Chilean military junta also told the magazine COSAS that "if this is a solution, I will be the first to resign."

Leigh said: "It is true that in private conversations I have said that of all the formulas which may be considered, the last possibility for breaking a foreign blockade may be the resignation of the four members of the junta and their replacement with new people."

With regard to the draft of a new Chilean constitution with an 8-year presidential term, Leigh indicated that this seemed to him too long. He said that he learned about this constitutional draft from the press.

He said that he is against the legalization of Marxist parties, adding that the doors must be closed to all extremes which intend to destroy democracy. The high-ranking officer emphasized: "We must stay far away from the communists and the fascists."

He added that he is against holding elections soon in Chile because it is still necessary to go slow in establishing electoral registers; this can be done within 4 years.

He reiterated his idea that institutionalization must begin with progress toward the creation of a true state of law and that this must not be confused with a civilian government. He believes, however, that the fact that the executive branch is in the hands of those who also hold legislative power drains strength and prestige from the current system of government.

INTERIOR MINISTER URGES SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONALITY

PA161208Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0222 GMT 16 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 15 Apr (AFP)--Chilean Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez said here today that civilian participation in the military government should give solid and realistic life to the new institutionality. He said that "no one must be deceived in this respect because the armed forces will continue to guarantee the protection of the vital principles of nationality, order and fatherland." In his first public speech since he assumed his post last Wednesday, Fernandez said that "these are permanent principles and their observance will be inflexibly maintained."

The secretary of state, whom Pinochet asked to propose the names of the ministers who could make up the new civilian-military cabinet, emphasized that "during the present stage the people must be fully aware that they must progressively assume the growing responsibility of national reconstruction." "It is not fair to let the military bear the full responsibility for this effort. The rest of the nation must make a proportional contribution," he emphasized. He then explained that "this is the meaning of the greater civilian-military integration in the government task which has been decreed by President Pinochet."

Fernandez reasserted that "the civilian sector must contribute with renewed effort to the common task of giving life to the new institutionality which must be solid and realistic." He said that otherwise "institutionality will never become a reality if the whole nation is not behind it." He finally warned that "this is why it is so vitally important to understand that civilians and military are no different, as Chile's enemies pretend. The two exert, and will exert in the future, common efforts in the same nation, which belongs to all of us and whose dignity, progress and sovereignty we shall defend with a single will."

DEFENSE MINISTER BENAVIDES HOLDS FIRST TALK WITH NEWSMEN

PY141335Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--New Defense Minister Gen Cesar Raul Benavides has stated that there will not be any changes in the present traffic restriction laws.

The minister made this statement during a meeting he held with journalists appointed to the Defense Ministry to get acquainted with [word indistinct] of this new job. He noted that there would be no changes and he agreed with former Defense Minister Hermann Brady's statement regarding the Townley case and Chilean relations with neighboring countries. He noted that the present situation with Bolivia was not critical since economic activity continued to be vigorous. [Word indistinct] could not be called an extremely serious situation.

JUDGE TO PROBE IRREGULARITIES IN TOWNLEY'S EXPULSION

PY151752Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1710 GMT 15 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 15 Apr--It was reported here today that a judge will investigate irregularities in the hurried expulsion from the country of U.S. citizen Michael Townley, allegedly involved in the murder of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

The expulsion order was decreed on Friday last week by the government with the accusation that Townley had broken the legal rules for entrance into the country. According to the Chilean constitution, Townley had a 24-hour deadline to make an appeal to the Supreme Court against the measure, which he did. The civilian police, however, hurriedly put him aboard a plane to the United States and placed him in the custody of two U.S. agents of the FBI, it was said here.

Supreme Court President Jose Maria Eyzaguirre protested against this, saying that the action was "a violation" of laws in force. Townley's defense attorney then submitted a protest to the court, which was rejected. Despite the unfavorable verdict, the attorney asked for appointment of a special judge to investigate possible irregularities in the issuance of the expulsion decree, a request which should be answered next week.

111 DETAINEES TO LEAVE FOR EXILE, ICEM REPORTS

PY150240Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2156 GMT 14 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 14 Apr--Former Chilean Air Force [FACH] officer Ernesto Galaz and Raul Vergara will leave for exile tomorrow, it was reported here today. The two officers were imprisoned after being sentenced by a court martial in 1974, and they will now complete their 30-year sentences in exile, thanks to the commutation of their sentences. The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration [ICEM] has reported that another 109 detainees sentenced by Chilean military courts will also leave the country in the next few days.

Commander Ernesto Galaz and Capt Raul Vergara will leave on an Air France flight from Santiago at 1430 local time (1830 GMT) tomorrow. They were charged with "treason to the fatherland" and "subversion" during the court martial for their links with the overthrown Popular Unity government headed by socialist President Salvador Allende (1970-73).

Roberto Kozak, ICEM director in Chile, met with President Augusto Pinochet for 15 minutes today to review final details of the relocation of the detainees. Kozak said: "It was a cordial and positive talk." In an official communique, ICEM stated that in 4 and 1/2 years it has relocated 1,284 people who were in jail, 47 of them sentenced to life imprisonment. Commander Galaz will be sent to England and Captain Vergara will go to Belgium.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE SIGNED WITH ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER

PA132016Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1839 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 13 Apr (AFP)--Argentina and Ecuador will promote their industrial development through mixed enterprises, specific projects for the exploitation of oil and an increased exchange of products to improve their trade relations, it was reported here today. At the end of his 48-hour visit to Quito, Antonio Montes, Argentine foreign relations minister, signed a joint communique with Jose Ayala, his Ecuadorean counterpart.

In the joint communique they expressed their views on foreign policy matters connected with the region, integration and economic cooperation within the regional and subregional bodies and other matters of bilateral interest. Thus, the two foreign ministers agreed to promote contacts among private businessmen through the creation of committees along sectorial lines to operate within the framework of the special Ecuadorean-Argentine commission for economic and technical coordination as a means to strengthen trade relations between the two countries. Encouraged by the positive cooperation between Argentina's Government Oil Deposits and the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation in recent years, the two foreign ministers decided to "strengthen" cooperation between the two enterprises with a view toward creating binational enterprises to implement oil projects in their respective areas as well as to market crudes and oil byproducts. They expressed satisfaction over the increased cooperation between the two nations, particularly in the oil, petrochemical and civil aviation fields.

Regarding peaceful use of nuclear energy, they noted that significant steps have been taken toward the achievement of effective cooperation in regard to nuclear energy.

The two foreign ministers agreed to promote the operation of a mixed Andean-Argentine commission as a means to effectively channel the cooperation opportunities between Argentina and the Andean group, particularly insofar as industrial cooperation is concerned. They added that it is necessary to adopt as soon as possible every possible measure to strengthen and revitalize the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA).

In the bilateral sphere, it was agreed to promote university, cultural and artistic contacts, to encourage activities aimed at increasing each country's knowledge about the other and to promote scientific research on matters of mutual interest.

Ayala reiterated Ecuador's support for Argentina's right to exercise its sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands in accordance with legal principles and the historical rights supporting it. The two foreign ministers reaffirmed the sovereign and jurisdictional rights of littoral nations over the maritime zone adjacent to their coasts up to a distance of 200 miles.

They expressed concern over the alarming nature of the arms race, which threatens peace and international security in the region and in the world. They reiterated their firm belief in the peaceful settlement of controversies among nations and concurred on the importance of negotiations and direct dialog for the solution thereof and the promotion of a climate of understanding and cooperation among the parties involved. In concluding, they reaffirmed their faith in the solution of problems still pending on the continent within a framework of justice and equity.

PDC CONDEMNS RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY REGIME

PY111924Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Apr 78 p 9 PY

[Text] The Paraguayan Christian Democratic Party [PDC] "doubts the patriotic dedication of the current government leaders and is certain that a change favorable to the people will not be possible."

This statement is included in a study made by this organization regarding the speech delivered by President Alfredo Stroessner to the opening session of congress on 1 April 1978. The PDC document was signed by its president, Anibal Recalde Rosa.

With regard to human rights, the study indicated that "to state that the government had enforced full respect and unyielding defense of human rights is to speak nonsense and contradicts the painful sufferings experienced by thousands of citizens during the last 25 years." The PDC also stated that "the constant discrimination against the opposition in the economic, political, social, legal and cultural fields is a flagrant violation of human rights because it converts the opposition into second-class citizens, depriving them of the guarantees and rights proclaimed by the national constitution but requiring them to comply with all obligations."

With regard to the elections, the document indicated that "it was an electoral farce where, like in communist regimes, citizens are taken to vote under the enforcement of the state of siege and laws repressing freedom."

The PDC document added: "In sum, the presidential message is an emotional listing of wishes which the people believe have not been satisfied but were presented under the disguise of words and phrases without any real content."

BRIEFS

OIL SEARCH CONCLUDES--Mr Warren Gillies, general manager in Paraguay for the consortium Texaco-Marathon, announced yesterday that the enterprise has now fulfilled the first stage of its contract with the Paraguayan Government for petroleum exploration in the Chaco region. He said that no petroleum has yet been found despite the drilling of three exploration wells and the expenditure of $20 million. The deepest well, called Toro 1, reached a depth of 3,400 meters. The enterprise will now analyze samples from the wells to decide whether it is worthwhile to continue exploring in the Paraguayan Chaco. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Mar 78 p 13 PY]

TARIFF BENEFITS WITH CHILE--Asuncion, 12 Apr--The Chilean Government has advised the Paraguayan Government that it has granted tariff benefits for 28 additional Paraguayan products, in observance of the agreements reached by the joint economic cooperation commissions of both countries. Paraguayan exports to Chile last year reached $8,655,010. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1551 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY]

URUGUAY OFFERS PORT FACILITIES--Uruguayan customs director Carlos A. Costa stated on 6 April after meeting with Paraguayan Public Works Minister Juan A. Caceres in Asuncion that Uruguay has offered Paraguay the utilization of facilities in Puerto Palmira for large-volume exports. Puerto Palmira is located 300 km from the Paraguayan free dock in Montevideo. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Apr 78 p 16 PY]

PRESIDENT PEREZ INTERVIEWED BY COLOMBIAN RADIO STATION

Expresses Optimism on Canal Treaties

PA160307Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0121 GMT 16 April 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 15 Apr (AFP)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today said that he hopes the United States will not commit the injustice of modifying the treaties signed with Panama regarding the future of the Panama Canal. He said that it "would create a harmful situation for hemispheric interests."

The Venezuelan president made these statements to the Colombian Caracol radio network during a visit to several towns in the State of Apure bordering Colombia.

Perez added: "I have maintained a discreet silence during this stage of the U.S. Senate debates, hoping that the senators representing the American people will interpret the sense of justice in the Panamanian position of recovering sovereignty over the canal. I trust and I am confident that the Senate will ratify the second treaty and that any amendment made will only serve to clarify any questions which remained in doubt in the first treaty on the neutrality of the Panama Canal."

He said: "I will not express any opinion until the U.S. Senate makes its final decision, because all the Latin American presidents, regardless of the type of government in their country, interpreting without any doubts the spirit of all Latin America, were present at the Organization of American States headquarters in Washington to support the treaties as signed by Gen Omar Torrijos and President Jimmy Carter. We will make a statement to the world when the time comes."

Perez concluded: "The situation now is one of expectations, of waiting, and I believe, of trust, because I have no reason to believe that the U.S. Senate is going to commit an injustice, thereby creating a harmful situation for hemispheric interests."

Discusses Border Dispute With Colombia

PA160308Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0126 GMT 16 Apr 78 PA

[Text- Bogota, 15 Apr (AFP)--Colombia and Venezuela must settle their border differences without the interference of any international authority, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today.

When questioned by the Colombian Caracol radio network during his visit to several border towns in Apure State this Saturday, the Venezuelan president said the following: "Negotiations with Colombia on our border differences have not been paralyzed. These are complex problems, and as I have often said, one never knows how close one is to an understanding."

He added: "What is important is that there is a political desire by the Colombian and Venezuelan governments to arrive at an agreement without interference by any international authority. Our two countries will find a solution in a bilateral manner."

Colombia and Venezuela have a border dispute in the Gulf of Venezuela, a region which unconfirmed reports say is very rich in petroleum. The boundary dispute has dragged on for many years.

Comments on Oil, Carter Talks

PA160309Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0134 GMT 16 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 15 Apr (AFP)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today reiterated that "oil will continue to be an instrument of balance and social justice for Third World countries."

Speaking to the Colombian Caracol radio network in the Venezuelan town of Guadualito, Apure State, on the border with Colombia, the Venezuelan president commented on his recent talks on this subject with U.S. President Carter.

Regarding this Perez said: "Oil was not absent from our talks with President Carter. But of course, our position is that we continue to share responsibilities with OPEC and that oil is a decisive instrument in the hands of the Third World to bring about the North-South dialog and reach agreements that will guarantee our countries a just payment for their raw materials and basic products."

Concluding with this subject, President Perez added: "Our countries cannot live like Colombia does, depending on the manipulations of the price of coffee or its other basic products. What we want is a system of balance, or international justice."

"Never mind," the Venezuelan president added, "if the price of oil does not increase any more or if it even drops, so long as the underdeveloped countries' objectives are achieved--guarantees regarding the prices of our raw materials so that they are not manipulated downward while each year the prices of the manufactured and capital goods we have to buy from the industrialized countries increase."

ENERGY MINISTER ANNOUNCES OIL OUTPUT RECOVERY

PA170255Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 11 Apr 78 p 1 PA

[Text] Caracas (INNAC)--We have overcome the brief recession we experienced in our oil production--and in a more relative fashion, in our oil exports as well--and we are very close to the planned production levels, Energy and Mines Minister Dr Valentin Hernandez Acosta announced yesterday while pointing with obvious optimism to the ascending line that records weekly production rates on a graph in his office.

For the month of March the graph shows that production came very close to 2.2 million barrels per day. So far in April the line has maintained the same level, which shows that "we are in the midst of a process of slow but firm recovery of our production levels and that the market is responding without much problem," the minister explained.

According to the high-ranking government official, it is necessary to bear in mind that in January and during almost the entire month of February we experienced a sharp drop in production (which went below 1.5 million barrels per day). This is why even though production rates in March substantially exceeded 2 million barrels per day, when averaging the production figures for the entire first quarter, the rate does not greatly exceed 1.8 million barrels--due to the effect that the low production volume of practically the entire first 2 months have had on that average.

The minister also announced that our fuel oil stocks have been greatly reduced. I would say that something similar must have also happened in most of the countries that are large consumers, both in the European countries and in the United States. This means that the fuel oil market is now returning to normal demand levels.

TORRIJOS COMMENTS TO FOREIGN NEWSMEN ON TREATY RATIFICATION

PA151840Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1755 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Contadora Island (Panama), 15 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Omar Torrijos told 50 foreign newsmen here today, Saturday, that he is "calm" and that "everything will be all right."

Several of his close collaborators said they felt equally confident in view of the fact that a counterreservation which would annul the reservation of Democrat Dennis DeConcini, which has been described as "openly interventionist," is making headway in the Senate.

If this counterreservation put forward by Senator Robert Byrd, majority leader, is approved with a text sufficiently strong enough to neutralize the DeConcini reservation, the treaties will pass.

Torrijos invited more than 50 foreign newsmen to spend the day together in what he termed "a social day, so that we will all enjoy ourselves during these special moments."

He looked very relaxed despite the difficulties of the moment, described as the most important in the 70 years of this small republic's independent life.

"The first thing a leader must do is to show himself calm when everybody is upset. I am doing just this," said the chief of government.

And regarding Panama's decision to remain officially silent regarding the amendments to the canal treaties until the Senate has completed its work, Torrijos admitted:

"It is difficult to be dumb [mudc] when one does not have the trait."

His brief statements regarding the number one topic in the United States and Panama at this time were limited to the brief sentences mentioned above and a "no" when he was asked if he maintained contacts with U.S. senators.

It was explained to the newsmen that just as Torrijos had clearly announced, it was only "a social day" and not a news conference.

The chief of government, the foreign correspondents and special reporters arrived early this Saturday morning on the island, which was the site of the bilateral negotiations which concluded on 10 August 1977 with the announcement of a new agreement contained in two treaties and multiple annexes.

Panama has already ratified this agreement through the 23 October 1977 plebiscite but the U.S. Senate added reservations and amendments such as DeConcini's which caused a wave of protest here that has not yet stopped 2 days before the final and definite vote on the basic canal treaty.

Torrijos and the newsmen were accompanied on this "social" day by Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla and the heads of the negotiating team, Romulo Escobar Bethancourt and Aristides Royo. The latter is also minister of education and former chief of the government's national information office.

LATIN Reports on Torrijos Comments

PA152034Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2010 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Contadora Island, Panama, 15 April--Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos today voiced optimism that the second Panama Canal treaty will be ratified on Tuesday. "I believe everything is going to be all right," Torrijos said, reiterating that his government will only make a statement about the treaties when U.S. senators have completed the ratification process.

"I am not in contact with the senators," Torrijos said when asked if congressmen had consulted him in the search for conciliatory formulas primarily for Senator DeConcini's amendment.

This morning, General Torrijos went to this island, which is a 15-minute flight from Panama, with his foreign minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla and his aides Romulo Escobar Bethancourt and Rodrigo Gonzalez. He told newsmen that on Tuesday, after the vote in Washington, there would be an official statement.

The first canal treaty was ratified in the U.S. Senate in March. The first treaty refers to the neutrality of the waterway. The second treaty concerns its transferral to Panamanian control at the end of this century.

In an unexpected action in the Panamanian capital, General Torrijos ordered that several planes be put at the disposal of foreign newsmen and invited them to a luncheon on the island. But he warned them not to expect great declarations on his part, since "this is a moment in which we must preserve our calm and tranquillity and wait for the United States to finish the ratification process."

More Details on Torrijos Remarks

PA162205Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Apr 78 pp 1, 28 PA

[Text] Contadora Island--"You can tell the world we are undisturbed, calm, confident, because we are convinced that our cause is a moral one. And I have confidence in the spirit of justice of the American people," Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera yesterday told over 40 foreign press correspondents and special reporters.

Speaking on what Torrijos called "a social day" in a social meeting, he said that since the treaty vote is approaching, "we cannot make much noise."

There have been amendments changes, recommendations and reservations but that has not concerned us very much because the principal amendment is, for all practical purposes, directed against Panama. It is directed against the hemisphere, the UN Charter. It is directed against the sacred principle of nonintervention which President Franklin Delano Roosevelt acknowledged with his signature in the name of the United States in 1936 as a principle which had to be respected as if it were sacred.

When the reservation was approved, we translated it into all languages and sent it to the UN member nations. Torrijos said that when many of the chiefs of state--I cannot say their names--received the letter, they could not believe it or they thought it was a translation error.

So we are going to wait until 1800 on Tuesday afternoon. "I am waiting optimistically because I have much faith in President Carter's word."

He (Carter), Torrijos said, assured me that his nation has no desire to intervene in weak countries and that statement has been in my mind all these past days.

The chief of government said that it was very difficult for him to talk a lot and not say much because his style is to talk little and say much. Highly polished language does not suit him. "But neither do I want 13 years of efforts to be destroyed by a misinterpretation of what I say."

This nation's spirit has been raised by the expressions of Byrd, Church, McGovern, Kennedy, Sarbanes and so forth in the Senate and they have led us to believe that there are still many moral Americans.

The chief of government repeated to the world press that he is doing the logical thing: staying calm. He was accompanied by his staff, Foreign Minister Gonzalez Revilla. Minister Royo, Rory Gonzalez, Perez Balladares, University Rector Eligio Salas, Ascanio Villalaz and Romulo Escobar Bethancourt.

TORRIJOS SENDS LETTER TO CHRISTIAN PEACE CONFERENCE

PA152021Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 15 Apr 78 p 1 A PA

[Text of letter from Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera to Monsignor Jacinto Ordonez, president of the First Continental Study Congress of the Christian Conference for Peace held in Panama City--dated 14 April 1978]

[Text] May your most illustrious lordship present my warmest greetings to the delegates attending the conference which concludes on this date.

We Panamanians are certain that in the course of your meeting valuable theses and resolutions were drafted which will contribute to the achievement of peace on the continent.

Panama is involved in an irreversible process of decolonization and voices such as those of the delegates to this Christian event not only encourage our people but also demonstrate clearly to the world that those who spread the Christian word--the cry of hope for those who thirst and hunger for justice--support our cause.

In view of attempts to oppress and subjugate our fatherland, our people will always be found on the path that has been cleared by men of good will, on the path of struggle and sacrifice that our people have traveled and will travel until the most cherished goal of humanity is achieved--freedom and peace.

"On our feet, but never on our knees"

[Signed] Omar Torrijos Herrera, chief of government

APEDE COMMUNIQUE URGES REJECTION OF AMENDED TREATIES

PA152247Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Apr 78 pp 1, 28 PA

[Communique of the Panamanian Business Executives Association issued in Panama City on 14 April]

[Text] The Panamanian Business Executives Association [APEDE] in considering:

1. That on 7 September, 1977, U S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos signed the Torrijos-Carter treaties at the Organization of American States [OAS] building in a ceremony attended by all rulers of the hemisphere;

2. That on October 23, 1977, the Panamanian people, by means of a plebiscite, ratified the treaties which, although not representative of Panamanian aspirations, were a step forward in our liberation struggle;

3. That President Carter, in his effort to have the treaties ratified by the Senate, managed to unite his party along with a large number of opposition senators;

4. That during the Senate debates a number of imperialist-minded senators have spoken in a manner offensive to our national dignity and have maintained an attitude contrary to the good will expressed by the U.S. Government;

5. That the Senate majority leader, in order to obtain the necessary number of votes for the ratification of the neutrality treaty, was compelled to accept certain amendments, reservations and understandings, some of which distort the contents of the original treaty;

6. That the reservations presented by Senators Deconcini and Nunn will not allow our country to attain sovereignty over its territory or a true political independence;

7. That the option for unilateral intervention, which the above-mentioned reservation gives the United States, is contrary to the UN and OAS charters as well as to other international conventions,

Resolves:

1. To criticize the attitude of some U.S. senators who, with their imperialistic actions, have offended the dignity of our people;

2. To suggest to the national government and the people in general that they emphatically reject the Deconcini and Nunn reservations;

3. To urge all nations of the world, especially the Latin American nations, to reject the colonialist attitudes of the U.S. Senate which are completely contrary to the principles promoted by the United States throughout the world. These attitudes are offensive not only to Panama but also to all the Latin American nations;

4. To urge all our members and the people in general to remain calm and to let good sense prevail at this critical moment in our national history and to remain aware that justice is on our side.

Panama, 14 April 1978.

[Signed] Leo Gutierrez, chairman

BAR ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION REJECTS TREATY AMENDMENTS

PA162223Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Apr 78 pp 1, 19 PA

[Text of resolution issued by the Board of Directors of the National Bar Association on 14 April]

[Text] The Board of Directors of the National Bar Association, whereas:

The country is experiencing one of the most difficult and decisive moments in its republican life;

In view of the fact that, due to the seriousness of the current national situation the national government has asked the country's various forces to express their opinion regarding the negotiations on the canal and the Senate amendments;

The National Bar Association of Panama, a professional body, cannot refuse, in keeping with its own tradition, to cooperate in forming the consensus being requested, taking a definite stand on the problem being faced; and

The various senatorial amendments harm the nation's sovereignty and offend the fatherland's honor in addition to violating the principle of nonintervention,

Resolves:

1. To publicly express its repudiation of the amendments which the U.S. Senate has introduced into the treaty concerning the permanent neutrality of the canal;

2. To urge the national government to reject officially the said amendments in view of their eminently interventionist nature;

3. To support every government initiative to reject the amendments referred to;

4. To urge all of the country's organizations to state their position in regard to this grave problem at this decisive time in our history.

Issued in the City of Panama on 14 April 1978.

Board of Directors of the National Bar Association.

(Signed) Luis A. Shirley, president; Cesar T. Villalaz, vice president; Ana Villa de Flores, secretary; Jorge Fabrega, voting member; Secundino Torres Gudino, voting member

ARCHBISHOP ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON DECONCINI RESERVATION

PA1141643Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[Communique issued by Archbishop of Panama Monsignor Marcos Gregorio McGrath on 13 April 1978]

[Text] The bishops of Panama have remained silent during the past few weeks, weeks which have been crucial for our nation. We have been praying, watching the development of public opinion and letting the national authorities carry out their political task which has never been more delicate or decisive. We believed we had spoken with sufficient clarity about the justice of the canal issue.

Nevertheless, among the many comments being made these days, two have awakened in me the desire to say a few more words because they strike at the heart of the issue. One is from the United States and the other from Panama. The first is from the bishop secretary general of the U.S. Catholic bishops. The other is from a sector of the clergy of the Panama archdiocese. The first is more official but both contain a great message which I will mention here as a contribution at this time to our conscience as Panamanians and Christians.

The declaration of the U.S. bishops cheers us and even moves us. It reminds us of those great principles which should regulate our existence as a community. Social justice demands that dignity and respect be granted to every person and country. Social justice must be the source of social contracts and international treaties. It should encourage the mutual and generous implementation of those documents. If this is not so, then we are returning to the law of the strong.

The reservation attached to the neutrality treaty contains a different spirit. As the U.S. bishops' declaration states, the reservation ignores sovereignty, dignity and social justice, which are the rules of respect among sister nations that treaties should promote. In trying to so arbitrarily and unilaterally intervene in Panama's domestic affairs, it not only ignores this nation's sovereign rights but also emphasizes the distrust against it.

The letter issued yesterday by a sector of the clergy of this archdiocese insists on expressing to General Torrijos that dignity is the only way to really survive and calls for the planning and organization of our economy free from threats and blackmail in order to obtain real liberation.

Both declarations stress the value and dignity of each man and each nation. Both apply to the very real and concrete level of politics, the Lord's words: Not only by bread alone does man live. The U.S. senators should understand this argument. The value of the treaties does not lie in their worth in dollars but in mutual respect and honor between nations that, although different in size and power, are equal in dignity.

The treaties are not worth ratifying merely for what they say. The Lord said: The word kills; it is the spirit which gives life. It is for that spirit that we are struggling, and we are awaiting some action from the north which will eliminate from our minds the old threats and blackmail that the reservation evokes.

On this depends in no small measure the spirit that will prevail between the Americas for the remainder of this century.

OPEN LETTER URGES AMENDMENTS REJECTION, NEW NEGOTIATIONS

PA1500315Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2323 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] We have been asked to read an open letter to the Panamanian people and government sent in by a group of citizens and bearing the signature of Julio Yao. The following is the text [as heard] of the letter:

We Panamanian citizens, signatories of this open letter, followers of different ideological and political currents, ask the Panamanian people to categorically demand the total rejection of the amendments, reservations and understandings that the U.S. senators have introduced to the so-called neutrality treaty. At the same time, we urge the national government to define its stand regarding this matter without resorting to any euphemisms or subterfuges.

According to this group of citizens, the two draft agreements signed by Panama and the United States and submitted to the U.S. Senate maintain a colonialist situation regarding the interoceanic waterway.

Yao points out that the treaty's negative aspects are emphasized by the U.S. Senate's changes and its interpretations of certain articles in the neutrality treaty; so much so that if the treaties such as they stand now were to become effective, the principles of self-determination and nonintervention would become complete myths for our country.

The group adds in its letter that the history of our liberation struggle does not permit us to pause for a single moment to make unilateral considerations as to what progress the new projects may represent. Furthermore, it notes, no circumstantial or personal political interest should prevail over the interests of Panama and its people.

We ask the people to join in the rejection of the amendments, and to demand the reopening of a new process of negotiations as well as the testing of other means of struggle to defend our attacked fatherland.

The signatories include Ricardo A. Alfaro, Jorge Arosemena, Fabian Echevers, Mario Galindo, Marco Gandazegui and Antonio Gonzalez Revilla.

POPULAR VANGUARD CALLS FOR TREATIES' IMMEDIATE REJECTION

PA1401422 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 2337 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Communique by Popular Vanguard student group as read by unidentified member--live or recorded]

[Text] We reject the treaties with or without amendments. Popular Vanguard believes that it is timely to reiterate its position on the Torrijos-Carter treaties, especially today when we are witnessing the popular reaction to the modifications, amendments, conditions, reservations and understandings imposed by the U.S. Senate in its final resolution when it ratified the incorrectly named Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal.

It is a known fact that the government announced that the Panamanian people accepted the treaties in a national plebiscite by a 2 to 1 margin despite our large rallies of 19 and 21 October 1977 in which we demonstrated our repudiation of the treaties because we believed they did not solve the causes of the conflict.

After listening to the U.S. senators' interpretations when they analyzed the neutrality treaty, we again realized, this time with more clarity, that the U.S. intention is to maintain a protectorate in our land, to keep tight control over the domestic affairs of our government. Now, the government cannot say that the Torrijos-Carter treaties are a step forward. Now we know that, thanks to Senators DeConcini and Nunn, who made explicit that which was implicit in the incorrectly named treaty for permanent neutrality, the North Americans are trying to maintain their military presence in perpetuity and that they were even granted the right to intervene in the domestic affairs of Panama with the pretext of safeguarding the neutrality of the canal. In conclusion, our arguments for rejecting the treaties were correct when we stated that despite the ambiguous language of the treaties, they clearly established the right of intervention. Our organization deeply repudiates the position adopted by the proconsuls of Yankee imperialism. Now, the U.S. Senate, instead of becoming more human, has been converted into a reactionary chamber where a majority, 68 to 32, supports the right to intervene in the domestic affairs of another state, despite the fact that the UN and OAS charters prohibit it. We ask the government to state its position to the Senate and the rest of the world that we reject the Senate attempt to stain our dignity and sovereignty.

In summary, we demand the immediate rejection of the Torrijos-Carter treaties and the creation of a new negotiating team as an alternative to negotiate with the full knowledge of the people the prompt recovery of our most valuable natural resource. We will continue in the struggle for the demilitarization, the nationalization and the neutralization of the canal.

We, as the Popular Vanguard, jointly with other organizations such as the Revolutionary Socialist League, the Camilo Torres Circle and the Independent Christian Movement, have come here [as heard] to show the Panamanian people that the university students and the Panamanian students, although we are not in school, will make our statements heard. We will always make our statements heard despite all the stratagems and schemes of the national government to prevent this type of demonstration.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ISSUE ANTITREATY COMMUNIQUE

PA142142Y Panama City Radio Mia in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[Communique issued by Coordinating Committee of Independent University Movements dated 14 April 1978--read by announcer]

[Text] The Coordinating Committee of Independent University Movements [Comite Coordinator de los Movimientos Universitarios Independientes--CCMUI] believes that in order for the juridical, political and economic effects of the Torrijos-Carter treaties--with or without amendments--on our fatherland's historical future to be evaluated, it is necessary to examine the present status of U.S. imperialism in Panama within the context of class struggle, since this will allow us to understand the true contents of the treaties.

Today, 10 years after the coup d'etat, the reformist bourgeoisie is politically and economically bankrupt. It has, therefore, been forced to bury its reformist measures--the labor code and the housing law--and adopt new antipopular measures such as the 5 percent sales tax. At the same time, it has strengthened international financial centers and foreign investment by means of the fiscal paradise it has created in Panama through fiscal incentives for investment and the establishment of banks in the republic.

It is within this framework that the Torrijos-Carter treaties, with or without amendments, must be considered since, given the disastrous situation prevailing in Panama, the approval of those treaties will give new life to the regime. The regime's search for economic survival explains why the plebiscite on the Torrijos-Carter treaties was held in such haste, without giving the national citizenry the most elementary guarantees of democratic libery as established by the constitution for discussion and analysis of the treaties. The regime's desire to impose mercantilist and militarist treaties that injure national dignity and sovereignty is the basis of the military government's refusal to grant a general amnesty for all political exiles.

On the other hand, for the United States, the Torrijos-Carter treaties reflect the political, economic and military strategy of the imperialists. Joining in this pro-imperialist effort to impose treaties which are shameful to our fatherland, the reformist front of Panamanian educators and the parents association of secondary schools have requested, with no moral authority, that the Ministry of Education postpone the opening of classes in an attempt to win the regime's favor and demobilize one of the most combative forces of the country--the student movement.

On the other hand, the Broad Front of Professionals has adopted a position of surrender by offering its unrestricted support for the Torrijos-Carter treaties and by trying to convince the public that the amendments, reservations and understandings are the only aspects [of the treaties] that discredit the Panamanian people's lengthy struggle. What a great utopia is that of the uncritical professionals who seek to go cowering through history!

In view of this violation of the January martyrs' postulates, the CCMUI reiterates its political position: We reject the Torrijos-Carter treaties, with or without amendments, because they do not resolve the causes of conflict between the two nations, but rather create new areas of conflict that discredit the Panamanian people's heroic struggle to expel U.S. imperialism from our territory. Because much blood has stained Panamanian streets in defense of our sovereignty, and as proof that there still exists a student movement that follows in the footsteps of the generations of 1926, 1947, 1964 and 1967, the CCMUI calls on all Panamanian working people to participate militantly in the national day of struggle against the proimperialist treaties on 18 April of this year.

REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS FRONT REJECTS TREATIES, AMENDMENTS

PA1300062Y Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Statements by members of Revolutionary Students Front (FER) during Canonero de Domplin commentary program--live]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified front member] We want to express our great concern and our great historical and political responsibility in view of the country's situation as a result of the canal treaty amendments. We want to call on the political sectors and the government in general to discuss the issue of the amendments. One of the points stressed regarding the neutrality treaty was that nowhere did it speak of U.S. intervention in Panamanian territory or did it expressly authorize intervention. With the amendments, we see that the U.S. Government seeks to intervene in our fatherland. No serious and responsible reply to this has been issued by the government sectors or the groups involved with the current regime.

We believe the following points are important. We believe that the neutrality treaty as currently written permits U.S. intervention and satisfies the objectives of the amendments, therefore both the neutrality treaty and the amendments must be rejected. We believe that the amendments, reservations and understandings modify the texts accepted by Panama through the plebiscite, therefore they are not binding on the Panamanian Government. We also believe it is important that the government issue a position on the amendments and that the Panamanian people, through diplomatic channels, protest the way in which national dignity has been offended in view of the terms the U.S. senators used in introducing those amendments. It is a serious matter that the Panamanian Government has not made its opinion known regarding those terms the U.S. senators used. If the silence is a tactical one, we understand it, but if the government is waiting for the ratification of the main treaty, we believe [words indistinct] because it is a matter of a perpetual intervention, a unilateral intervention, an everlasting intervention. We believe that the future of the entire country is at stake. We believe that the government should make its position known.

We believe that the respect of democratic freedoms and the return of political exiles is essential at this time since the canal issue is not being debated with the participation of various sectors which have always been historically committed. During the plebiscite, we called for the return of political exiles, but this has not been achieved.

[Second unidentified front member] The FER calls on all political organizations to declare 18 April the national day of rejection of the canal treaties and amendments. We hope that all organizations will issue communiques rejecting the treaties and amendments, demanding respect of democratic freedoms and the declaration of general amnesty. We ask that they send telegrams to the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, the National Guard staff and the UN office in Panama demanding the return of political exiles, a declaration of general amnesty and the rejection of the treaties and amendments. Our position is that, with or without the amendments, we reject the treaties.

MNR, TRIPLE O ASSOCIATIONS DECLARE STATE OF ALERT

PA152231Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Apr 78 pp 12B, 8A PA

[Communique of the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (MNR) and the 11 October Organization of the Republic of Panama (Triple O) dated 11 April 1978]

[Excerpt] In view of the difficult times that our dearly beloved republic is experiencing as a result of the continuous aggressions, injuries and cruel provocations of a small-minded, pretorian-style and imperialist-colonialist U.S. Senate minority which wants to crush the worthy resistance and united struggle of the people and Government of Panama through the so-called amendments, reservations and understandings that harm our independence, territorial integrity and national dignity, some of which have been introduced while efforts are being made to introduce others into the so-called Torrijos-Carter treaties which were ratified by the Panamanian people during a plebiscite, even though these treaties do not contain all of Panama's just aspirations, they end the in perpetuity clause, recognize Panama's sovereignty and the exercise of its jurisdiction over the isthmian territory of the Canal Zone, set a deadline for withdrawal of foreign troops that are arbitrarily occupying part of our territory and thus are instruments of decolonization. [sentence as published]

The Revolutionary Nationalist Movement and the 11 October Organization of the Republic of Panama declare a state of alert and are present before the sacred alter of the fatherland of all Panamanians, in their respective fighting trenches, ready to struggle, reaffirming at this crucial moment their loyal, sincere and honest support, on the grounds required by circumstances, of the Panamanian people and government in the titanic struggle to break the ignominous chains and tear to pieces the structure of imperialism which is a cancerous tumor that corrodes and damages our independence.

Fellow citizens, let us put an end to partisan divisions; let us consolidate our unity in order to eradicate the opprobious existence of the 1903 canal treaty which grants in perpetuity rights to the United States as if they were sovereign over our national territory in the Canal Zone. Let us struggle to reach the final victory of seeing only one flag displayed in the sacred land of the isthmians as an eternal symbol of our nationality, sovereignty, dignity and clear patriotism.

God, fatherland and revolution

Revolutionary Nationalist Movement of Panama

11 October Organization of Panama

[Signed] Lt Col Saturnino Florez (ret), president; Tomas Ernesto Diaz Villa, general coordinator.

Panama, 11 April 1978

COSTA RICA

SANDINISTS DEMAND RELEASE OF PLUTARCO HERNANDEZ

PA141925Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[Text of Sandinist National Liberation Front communique issued on 14 April 1978 in San Jose, delivered to Radio Reloj studios on 14 April]

[Text] Our comrade Commander Plutarco Hernandez has been arrested in a spectacular operation carried out by the Costa Rican police because of the fact that a despicable individual, with whom our courts will settle accounts at the appropriate time, informed on him. It was necessary to face the police forces with weapons in an effort to prevent the arrest of Commander Hernandez. [words indistinct] Our decision is not to shed the blood of Costa Ricans uselessly. We now demand that he be released within 72 hours, starting at 1200 today, 14 April.

We make this demand to President Daniel Oduber and President-Elect Rodrigo Carazo Odio. If it is not met, we will put our own measures into effect and we have the necessary elements to do so.

We hope this communique will be given adequate dissemination so that the country and the world will know about our decision. We have nothing against Costa Rica but we do have something against Somoza. However, if what the front needs to finsih him [words indistinct] Commander Hernandez we must adopt other measures, we will take them.

Somewhere in San Jose, 14 April 1978.

FSLN Terms Communique 'False'

PA151707Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1610 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] We have just received a reportedly authentic Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] communique. This is an urgent communique addressed to the Costa Rican people and world public opinion:

The national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front rejects as ridiculous and false a communique clumsily attributed to our revolutionary organization and which, we are told, was delivered to Radio Reloj in San Jose. In this communique--in which it is evident that the lying and criminal Somoza dictatorship is involved--threats are made which are to be carried out if our comrade, Plutarco Elias Hernandez, is not released in 72 hours.

At this time the FSLN makes the repressive security apparatus which the Somoza dictatorship has in Costa Rica responsible for any act of violence in that fraternal country. Our organization is waging a war without quarter against Somoza and his lackeys in Nicaraguan territory, the communique emphasizes, because it is a question of returning liberty and dignity to Nicaragua. We respect the peace and tranquillity of fraternal countries who support our cause, as is the case with Costa Rica.

The spurious communique attributed to our organization does not have our seal or letter head. We repeat: It is a clumsy maneuver by Somozism which is an enemy of Costa Rica and its citizens. Our rejection of any terrorist act in Costa Rica is from this time on absolute and we denounce the lying manuever of the Somoza dictatorship which the Costa Ricans should fear since it is capable of trying any desperate action to recover some kind of international support and to discredit the FSLN, which heroically heads the struggle that the Nicaraguan people are waging wholeheartedly to overthrow the tyranny. A free fatherland or death.

[Signed] The national leadership of the FSLN

Somewhere in Nicaragua, April 1978.

The communique, which is a copy, has in its upper left-hand margin the picture of Cesar Augusto Sandino and, in the right corner, large FSLN initials.

Plutarco Hernandez' Remarks

PA150233Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0120 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Sandinist leader Plutarco has denied the authenticity of a document allegedly issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

There is some person or organization interested in promoting provocations at the expense of the FSLN, Hernandez said this afternoon. He said that the terms of the document are not in accordance with FSLN policy and that its demands are too hasty.

The Costa Rican guerrilla leader would rather seek his release by legal means. If this is unsuccessful, then his organization would take appropriate measures.

Plutarco Hernandez was interviewed this afternoon at the San Jose central penitentiary.

Public Security Minister's Statement

PA150312Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0112 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Statement to Radio Reloj by Public Security Minister Mario Chapentier on 14 April--recorded]

[Text] Plutarco Hernandez is not in prison for political reasons. In Costa Rica, no one is persecuted for political reasons. Hernandez is a Costa Rican and he is in prison for a common crime for which he was sentenced, if I am not wrong, to 16 years.

The communique from the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] indicates that its members are trying to start violence in Costa Rica. I am not going to permit this under any circumstances. I only have 25 days left at this post, but if I have to spend those 25 days fighting to maintain peace and tranquillity in Costa Rica, that is exactly what I am going to do.

I have placed the authorities on a state of alert to be on the watch for FSLN members and those who sympathize with that organization here in Costa Rica [words indistinct]. I am going to maintain peace and tranquillity. Under no circumstances will I permit Plutarco Hernandez or the FSLN to start any violence in Costa Rica. I will take any measure. If necessary I will assume the responsibility of having them expelled from the country. I will do this even if I only have a few days left at my post. However, Costa Rica is Costa Rica, and these problems are not going to end. The next government will have to face them. However, I still have my responsibility to the last minute as long as I am in charge of this post. This threat, on the contrary, has [words indistinct].

EL SALVADOR

BPR GROUP OCCUPIES SWISS EMBASSY

PA141201Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2220 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--According to reports from the scene, the Swiss Embassy was occupied today, Thursday, by members of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc [BPR]. Eighteen BPR members arrived at 1130 (1730 GMT) at the embassy located in "La Centro-americana" building in the western section of downtown San Salvador.

This is the fourth embassy occupied by the BPR. It seized the Venezuelan and Panamanian embassies on Tuesday, the Costa Rican Embassy on Wednesday and the Swiss Embassy today, Thursday.

DIPLOMATS MEET WITH PEASANT LEADERS

PA151418Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] In a meeting held between leaders of the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation [FECCAS], the Farm Workers' Union [UTC] and diplomats of the Swiss, Venezuelan, Panamanian and Costa Rican embassies, the diplomats said that they cannot interfere in El Salvador's internal affairs as this would violate international law and threaten their friendship with the Salvadoran people and government. The FECCAS and UTC leaders, on their part, demanded the intervention of the governments of the occupied embassies in an effort to get the Salvadoran Government to meet their demands.

There is calm in San Salvador despite the occupation of the four embassies and the cathedral. Urban and rural security corps are limiting their activities to standing guard over the Swiss, Venezuelan, Panamanian and Costa Rican embassies, the cathedral and the entrances and exits of San Salvador and some important cities of the country.

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT OPPOSES CENTRAL AMERICA SUMMIT

PA152008Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Roberto Giron Lemus, public relations secretary of Guatemalan President Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia, declared today in the president's name that the Central American "summit" meeting proposed by Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza would be "a tourist trip" in view of the upcoming change of administrations in Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Giron Lemus added that, moreover, "it is not feasible for General Laugerud to go to the meeting since several international matters prevent him from leaving the country."

Laugerud will soon relinquish the presidency to Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia, while Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber will be replaced by President-Elect Rodrigo Carazo.

NICARAGUA

FURTHER STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTED

PA1414452Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Further student riots took place yesterday in Matagalpa, Jinotepe, Diriamba, Chinandega and San Marcos in support of the demand for the humanitarian treatment of Sandinist prison inmates Tomas Borge and Marcio Jaen.

In Jinotepe and Matagalpa, housewives banged objects against pots almost all night. In Diriamba, young man sprayed himself with gasoline and set himself on fire as an act of protest. He is now in critical condition in a hospital.

Classes Suspended in Occupied Schools

PA150321Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[Resolution No 3 issued by the Ministry of Public Education on 14 April--read by announcer--SERCANO Network]

[Text] Whereas the Ministry of Public Education in its resolutions Nos 1 and 2 of 11 and 12 April 1977, respectively, issued an appeal to high school students occupying some schools to make use of their commonsense for the purpose of reaching satisfactory solutions;

Whereas the Ministry of Public Education, as the governing institution for national education, has kept a calm and composed attitude urging for the normal resumption of classes;

Whereas in some cases little or no attention was paid to these appeals and in those cases where schools were voluntarily vacated, these schools were left in a deplorable condition because of property damage;

It resolves:

1. To suspend classes indefinitely in public high schools which were illegally broken into and occupied.

2. The rest of the schools which were not occupied will continue their normal classes beginning 17 April.

3. Effective today and according to general high school regulations, the students still occupying high schools are no longer protected by the rights conferred on them in the regulations.

Given in the city of Managua, National District, on 14 April 1978.

Police Begin Evicting Students

PA161209Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2358 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 15 Apr (LATIN)--Backed by warrants issued by police judges, the National Guard today began to evict students from the churches and schools they had been occupying.

In the early morning hours, a police platoon with trained dogs surrounded the buildings of the School of Agriculture, which is located next to Las Mercedes Airport. The school had been officially closed after the students occupied it. Managua's police judge Col Luis Ocon entered the place armed with a shotgun and carrying an eviction notice. Ocon informed the students of the notice. Seeing that they were surrounded, the students left as armed soldiers entered it pointing their weapons at them. According to the students, they were not allowed to remove their belongings.

The high school students occupying Cristobal Colon School in southeastern Managua were similarly evicted today. The patrols fired their guns into the air and threw tear gas bombs to evict the students on orders of a police judge who said his decision had been based on the Education Ministry decree ordering the closing of all schools "seized" by students.

The students occupying a school and a church in the city of Concepcion, Masaya Department, located 45 km south of Managua, were similarly evicted by military patrols.

In that city, civilian partisans of the government last night fired against a demonstration staged by members of the opposition and killed a 25-year-old man later identified as Francisco Reyes Quintero. His body was taken to that city's National Guard headquarters. One of the bullets penetrated a neighboring house and killed a 3-month-old baby girl.

It is feared that these evictions will continue throughout the country in the next few hours.

Somoza on School Seizures

PA161536Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0324 GMT 16 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza at inauguration of Las Mercedes highway--recorded]

[Excerpts] Honorable Monsignor (Eustacio Bonilla), honorable members of the government branches, honorable presidents and managers of autonomous institutions, honorable members of the cabinet, honorable members of the general staff of the National Guard, ladies and gentlemen:

I am convinced that we Nicaraguans wish to make progress within peace and freedom. For this reason, my government supports every effort aimed at achieving these objectives, and with the cooperation of the National Guard we can guarantee order, progress and peace for Nicaraguans.

The Nicaraguan people have shown that they love peace by turning a deaf ear to subversion. They did so because the Nicaraguan family is responsible and does not want its children to spill their blood uselessly.

I wish to use this rostrum today to refer to the occupation of certain schools and Catholic temples in the country by some youths, an act which has been repudiated by parents and (?teachers). [Word indistinct] We have acted with wisdom, prudence and patience because we have asked for reflection. For this reason, no legal steps have been taken to recover control of the education centers. We had hoped that parents, who are responsible for the behavior of their children because their children are minors, would make these children return to their homes in order to be able to resume their studies in a normal manner, which is what most Nicaraguan parents want.

My administration has guaranteed all liberties and allowed the existence of all tendencies in partisan politics. For this reason, let the efforts my government has made to preserve the nation's peace and tranquillity stand out clearly in the eyes of public justice and Nicaraguans.

I wish all people to know that those who promote terrorism and disorder are politicians [words indistinct] all seek power without reflecting upon the damage caused to the people. These politicians are violating the constitution and public rights; they are violating the rights of third parties; they are violating private property; and they are denying to the youths--who are the future of the fatherland--the opportunity to educate themselves within the framework of a normal home life and peace.

Gentlemen, democracy guarantees all of the freedoms we are enjoying in Nicaragua, but this guarantee also extends to all rights we Nicaraguans have. That is why my government intends to safeguard the children's right to education in public centers. To this effect, it will adopt timely and prudent measures.

The government does not promote violence but it is dutybound to enforce the country's laws and constitution. For these reasons, even though we have adopted a prudent attitude, tolerance has reached its limit and we will immediately proceed to recover state control through legal channels. Likewise, the seizure of churches is no longer an exception. Instead, it has become widespread.

For these reasons, I want the parents of these children to be aware of their responsibility and to make the youths return to their homes because otherwise, (?as of now), the history of the fatherland will hold them responsible for any (?delays) that may be suffered by the Nicaraguan youth.

We have taken the precautionary measure of indefinitely suspending classes at schools where disorders have taken place. At those schools, classes will not be resumed until such a time as normalcy is restored. I must also urge the communications media to help keep peace and to inform you that anyone found to be promoting disorder will be punished according to the country's laws.

I have welcomed the spirit of the Catholic Church, which seeks only good for the fatherland, and I hope the high-ranking prelates will establish a climate of normalcy in their parishes so that we may attain peace for Nicaraguans, a peace which the prelates seek as much as all of us who are bent on promoting the fatherland's well-being.

Gentlemen, freedom has been guaranteed by the liberals in Nicaragua. The liberals fought during a bloody revolution to establish the freedoms which had been previously taken away from Nicaraguans. Nowadays, a communist minority seeks to deprive us of those freedoms and has started by intervening in our schools in an effort to take away from us the right to education. I would like to know if there is any communist country where rightwingers or democrats are allowed to seize schools in the manner in which the schools have been seized in Nicaragua. [shouts and applause]

We have not read that actions like those which we, the democrats and liberals, allow communists to carry out here in Nicaragua, are being carried out in communist countries. We do not read about such things, my dear fellow citizens, because those who have carried out such actions no longer exist. They have been gunned down at the wall or jailed. With the system of neighborhood committees, which aid the iron boot of the communist police, those who try to do so are sent to correctional schools. Where are the correctional schools in Nicaragua? Here, one lives and breathes a climate of freedom. The opportunity is given to persons to publicly show their nonconformity. When have communists allowed a demonstration to be staged to show nonconformity? When one is staged, it is suppressed, as was the case in Hungary and Czechoslovakia and more recently in other countries.

Let us not fool ourselves, we Nicaraguans. Let us not fool ourselves. The communists do not want elections. They want the democrats who hold elections to turn to violence.

For this reason, gentlemen, we must look for a way to isolate these communists who use any excuse to preach violence. We must isolate them and we must talk among ourselves, among those of us who believe in free elections, in electoral debates, in order to set this country in order and to find a (?praisesworthy) and viable solution for the well-being of Nicaraguans. Thank you very much.

DEMANDS OF PRISONERS' RELATIVES RECEIVED

PA151424Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Nicaraguan Government Minister Jose Antonio Mora Rostran yesterday received the official demands of the political prisoners' relatives. These included a request that an end be put to the isolation of Sandinist leaders Tomas Borge and Marcio Jaenz and that the women imprisoned in the Modelo jail be transferred from that police headquarters to a prison where they will receive special treatment. Tomas Borge and Mario Jaenz are at present in those women's facilities.

The minister said the government would study the petition and that a reply will be given next week.

NATIONAL GUARD REPORTS CLASH WITH GUERRILLAS

PA141450Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 14 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The National Guard reported today that early yesterday it arrested Nicaraguan guerrilla Doris (Higuerino Hasland) near the Honduran border post of El Espino. It has also been reported that another guerrilla, identified as Mauricio Cajina Perez, was killed during the clash with army patrols.

Another person who was accompanying the aforementioned guerrillas fled, the military report says. The patrol seized weapons and correspondence addressed to (Bayardo) Arce Castano, who is believed to be one of the guerrilla leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front which is using the tactic of prolonged people's warfare.

SANDINISTS HOLD UP FINANCE CORPORATION

PA150130Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2320 GMT 13 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Two youths identified as members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] guerrilla organization today held up a branch of the "Mortgage, Savings and Loans Finance Corporation" in Managua and stole approximately 86,200 cordobas ($12,185). The youths disarmed the guard at the branch located in the "Salvadorita" neighborhood in eastern Managua, forced the employees at gunpoint into the bathrooms, ordered the tellers to hand over the money from that morning's operations and fled in a white car.

The robbery, which has become customary in the country, was carried out in a very few minutes. The Sandinists gave assurances that they did not intend to hurt anybody, that their mission "was to recover the people's money for our struggle against the Somoza dictatorship."

HAVANA COMMENTS ON CARTER NEUTRON BOMB DECISION

FL150300Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Apr 78 FL

[Armando Lopez Junco commentary]

[Text] The decision by North American President James Carter to delay production of the neutron bomb, for the moment while development of the transport system continues for eventual use of the deadly weapon, nas provoked irate reaction of opposition throughout the world and even in the United States itself. The decision announced 1 week ago today followed domestic as well as international controversy between supporters of production and deployment of the weapon on the one side, and its opponents on the other. President Carter stated that a definitive position will be adopted later, although he did not specify its character or the possible date of its adoption.

Although much has been spoken and written about the neutron bomb, the sinister character of this device is not obvious. Its experimental production was approved by former President Gerald Ford 2 years ago. Its first test was held a few months ago, being detonated underground in the Nevada desert. It can be launched on a missile carrier or as an 8-inch or 203 millimeter artillery projectile. Its effects extend over a radius of approximately 1 km, and it will affect the central nervous system of everyone who enters the area, followed by total paralysis 5 minutes later and death within the next 48 hours.

It has the terrible virture of only annihilating human beings, leaving intact or almost intact buildings, bridges and other inanimate objects including enemy weapons, against which it is directed. But if its residual effect has not been exhaustively debated, reliable scientists state that the mere existence of neutron radiation emanating from the explosion necessarily provokes radioactivity in the environment.

Carter has taken an ambiguous position in the midst of waves of protest against the repugnant neutron weapon. Members of the U.S. Congress itself, such as Representative J. Conyers have come out categorically against the bomb. Conyers has stated that he will keep up an active campaign for its total prohibition. Also, the secretary of the U.S. Association of Arms Control, (Jerry Scovill), has come out against production and deployment of the bomb and the attempt by war circles to use it as the trump card in negotiations with the USSR. These circles believe that in exchange for renouncing production of the bomb Washington must demand a reduction of Warsaw Pact treaty equipment in Europe, which is there to guarantee the integrity of the European socialist community. This has been stated explicitly by North American Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, head of the Pentagon.

It is time to realize that we cannot negotiate with the USSR from a position of strength, stated Mr (Scovill). The association secretary recounted what happened when the United States created missiles carrying multiple nuclear warheads, which Washington tried to use as blackmail in negotiations with Moscow. (Scovill) said that this resulted in the Soviets also creating an equal weapon, and our position from the point of view of national security simply got worse.

By the way, it is curious to point out that in the midst of this wave of world protest that the governing circles in Peking have lamented Carter's decision to delay production of the bomb.

There is, without a doubt, in the center of the governing team in the United States decided supporters of the terrible weapon, among them the secretary of defense. There are those who have a more balanced view and do not favor it. There are also those who decidedly oppose it. In the middle of this is Carter's ambivalent position which appears to be subject to antagonistic pressures. In any case, the recourse to delay the decision is evidently a maneuver which, while it seeks to weaken the pressure brought to bear by world protests, tries to gain time by attempting to divide the hostile forces, because the sole fact that at the same time the delay in production of the deadly device is announced, development of the carriers continue--the Lance-type missiles and 203 millimeter shells--reveals the final intention of producing the neutron bomb.

Its supporters in the United States dream of using it in negotiating a unilateral weapon reduction, tilting the balance of forces in favor of the imperialists in Europe. At the same time, they are trying with the delay of production of the neutron weapon--supposedly a tactical weapon--to erase the frontier between nuclear and nonnuclear weapons.

The USSR, whose scientific and technical development allows it--and do not doubt this--to become equal in this or any other field with the United States, adopts a very different position. It has been the leader in proposing a mutual accord to proscribe this or any other nuclear weapon as a step toward eventual total and complete disarmament. The decision by the North American government is therefore a manuever which people must oppose vigorously so that the arms race is not begun again in a phase even more dangerous for the world.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH SEYCHELLES

FL141230Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The governments of the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Seychelles have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. The two governments have expressed a desire to strengthen and expand the friendly ties existing between the two countries, based on the principles of mutual respect, equality, integrity and nonalinement.

UN AMBASSADOR ALARCON MEETS WITH REPORTERS

FL150034Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The first priority for Cuba is to maintain and develop a foreign policy based on principles solidly established and supported by our people and government, stated Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon at an informal meeting with reporters at the United Nations shortly before returning to Havana. Alarcon has concluded his term as ambassador to the United Nations and returns to take on other duties in the government.

Along with the aforementioned statement, the Cuban ambassador reiterated that our country will not renounce any of its foreign policy principles to normalize relations with the United States. He stated that normalization of relations should be based on respect for each party's sovereignty and without prior conditions.

Further Report

PA151934Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, Cuba's permanent ambassador to the United Nations,has said that our country will not give up any of its foreign policy principles in order to normalize relations with the United States. The Cuban diplomat made these statements to newsmen shortly before returning to our country to assume other official functions. His words were in answer to a question about Cuba's foreign policy regarding [words indistinct] problems.

In answer to a question on the U.S. Guantanamo Naval Base, Alarcon indicated that this enclave on Cuban territory was established when international relations were very different from those at present. He added that the United States cannot claim any right to that area which belongs to Cuba just as, it appears, the Washington government is aware of the fact that the Panama Canal belongs to the Panamanians.

Alarcon severely criticized the OAS, saying his country will never rejoin it. He also emphasized that many Latin American countries may continue their efforts of past years to create and develop their own institution which will contribute to the regional process of integration.

The Cuban ambassador added that an organization of that kind should exclude the United States.

SFRY'S BERBEROVIC ARRIVES IN HAVANA

LD162342Y Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1940 GMT 16 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Havana--Muhamed Berberovic, member of the Federal Executive Council and chairman of the Federal Committee of Information, arrived in Havana today where he will lead the Yugoslav delegation at the second session of the intergovernment council for cooperation in the area of information of nonalined countries. This meeting, which will begin tomorrow, will examine the results of cooperation in the area of information achieved so far and lay down directions of further joint actions.

Milic Bugaroic, assistant federal secretary of foreign affairs; TANJUG editor Pero Ivacic; and Milan Uzelac, director of Sarajevo radio and television, have arrived in Havana with Berberovic.

CASTRO CONTINUES TOUR OF CONSTRUCTION SITES, INDUSTRIES

FL141205Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The construction workers of the Batalla de Las Guasimas sugar mill in Guantanamo Province's municipality of Vertientes gave an enthusiastic welcome to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, who has been touring important construction projects during the past 4 days. The helicopter that carried Fidel to the mill under construction landed there yesterdaymorning. Jose Alvarez, the representative of the Sugar Ministry in Camaguey Province, and Nicolas Valdes, chief of the construction project, received and briefed Fidel on the prospect. The new sugar mill will produce 600,000 arrobas and will begin operations in the 1979-1980 sugar harvest.

Raul Curbelo, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Camaguey Province, who accompanied the commander in chief, reported that the sugar industry enterprise which will supply the mill has already been established and is in operation. Curbelo said that the goals for an emulation could be the completion of the project and its sugar production in the first harvest. Showing signs of being satisfied, Fidel explained to newsmen the great future of the new sugar mill and added that 60 harvesters could supply the factory. He further stated that 50 percent of the harvesters will be manufactured in this country. The chief of the revolution referred to the possibilities of building another sugar mill in Camaguey. Commenting on our first industry, the commander in chief praised its good aspects and said it costs little to operate and gives everything it produces to the economy.

During talks with newsmen, in which Sugar Industry Minister Marcos Lage also participated, Curbelo referred to other gains made by the province and mentioned the example of the canefields of the Brazil sugar mill, where an irrigation system has been installed which was manufactured in Camaguey.

At noon yesterday, Fidel and his entourage traveled to Las Tunas Province, the seventh to be visited by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in his tour of the country. A bottle factory and another of metal structures were the first construction sites visited by the revolution's chief in Tunas. Fidel stressed that it is necessary to step up the completion of the bottle factory for 1980 and ordered that the production shop and mixing shed be given priority attention. The factory will produce 300 million bottles per year.

Accompanied by Faure Chomon, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Las Tunas, and Fernando Duenas, director of the integrated construction enterprise No 2, which is building the project, Fidel toured the site. After congratulating the construction workers of Las Tunas' metal structures factory for the advanced state of the project, Fidel went to the Jesus Menendez sugar mill. Fidel stopped at the place where ground is being broken for the third factory of bagasse boards, which will produce more than 66,000 tons. The workers reiterated their pledge of completing the project in the third part of 1979 and Fidel exhorted them not to waste a single minute.

The demonstrations of enthusiastic jubilation were repeated at the Jesus Menendez sugar mill when the revolution's chief arrived. While at the mill, Fidel chatted with workers and the manager, Francisco (Bendrel). Prior to leaving the area, the commander in chief visited Holguin city where he toured the Martires del 26 de Julio agricultural implements factory of Bulgarian technology. Later on, the group went to the 60th October Revolution Anniversary cane harvesters factory, which was inaugurated last year by the revolution's chief. Fidel was accompanied by Miguel Cano Blanco, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Holguin. The implements factory will go into operation next year and will produce 11 different types of implements and some 18,000 units. Close to this factory, a cane wagon factory will be built. These three factories will be part of a large industrial complex. Fidel voiced the need for maintaining a fast pace in construction work and expressed satisfaction over what has been accomplished. At the harvester factory, Fidel toured all of its installations and chatted with the workers. This factory is expected to produce 300 harvesters this year. Thirty of them are already working with good results.

Summing up, anyone who is participating in this tour may reach the conclusion that the pledges made by the workers to complete the projects and make a successful harvest will be fulfilled. Fidel has already covered more than 1,500 kms of his tour from Havana city to Holguin.

Activities in Holguin

FL150101Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, PCC Central Committee first secretary and president of the councils of state and ministers, concluded a more than 1,700 km tour, which he began last Monday in Havana city, with a visit of several projects in Holguin. This afternoon he was received at the milk complex by the workers of the 14-B Brigade of the industrial project construction enterprise No 9, which is building the site which should be finished in the last quarter of 1978. Director of the construction enterprise (Jose Ramon Lima) briefed the PCC first secretary on some of the details of the progress of the project, which when in operation will process 240,000 liters of milk daily, in addition to producing yoghurt, cheese and butter.

Following this, the delegation headed by Fidel went to the Holguin University center, which has an enrollment of over 3,000 students, where he was welcomed by Higher Education Minister Fernando Vecino Alegret, rector of the study center Jose Ariosa, students and workers. Our commander in chief happily stated that a medical sciences facility will be built in this city and called on the students to prepare themselves to become good professionals within internationalist guidelines.

Lastly, Fidel and his entourage visited the oxygen plant being built there and pointed out the usefulness of this plant by beginning production of 1,300 cylinders daily. During his visit in Holguin, our commander in chief was accompanied by Politburo members Juan Almeida, Ramiro Valdes and Arnaldo Milian, Miguel Cano Blanco, Central Committee member and first party secretary in Holguin, and other Central Committee members and PCC and government officials.

GOSPLAN DEPUTY CHAIRMAN VISITS NUEVITAS

FL142041Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1926 GMT 14 Apr 78 FL

[Text] USSR Gosplan Deputy Chairman Nikolay Inozemtsev has visited the industrial city of Nuevitas in Camaguey Province, at the head of a delegation from that fraternal country. Among the sites visited by the delegation were the Diez de Octubre thermoelectric plant, the port of Nuevitas and other important industries. At the end of his tour, Inozemtsev stated that this municipality has great potential for future development in all fields. He added that they were all satisfied with what they saw in the industrial city.

The Gosplan deputy chairman was accompanied by Lazaro Vazquez, second secretary of the party in Camaguey Province, and Rigoberto Fernandez Leon, provincial bureau member and Nuevitas first party secretary.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BALAGUER PROMISES TO RESPECT VOTE OUTCOME

PA091929Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2241 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 9 Apr (EFE)--Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer has repeated that he will respect the results of the coming elections, adding that he is ready to return to power through peaceful means of the vote and to serve his people by sacrificing his health without asking for anything in return. The chief executive added that he wants to win not to enrich himself but to serve his people as he has done all of his life.

Speaking at a political rally during the electoral campaign, Balaguer promised thousands of peasants that his government's agrarian reform program will continue. Balaguer said that the country will have "free and honest elections" and that there will not be one policeman at the polls to check the voting. This refutes speculation by his political opponents that the military sector would exert its influence against the opposition.

JAMAICA

MOST FAVORED NATION SHIPPING PACT SIGNED WITH USSR

FL131645Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 9 Apr 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] Jamaica and the Soviet Union have agreed to treat each other as "most favoured nation" in the area of shipping, to grant national treatment to each other's vessels in emergencies, and to set up a joint Jamaica/U.S.S.R. commission on shipping.

A maritime agreement, embodying these decisions was signed by Jamaica's minister of public utilities and transport, the Hon. Horace Clark, and the deputy minister of the Merchant Marine of the U.S.S.R., Mr A.V. Goldobenko, at the Ministry of Public Utilities late on Friday night. The agreement, which comes into force immediately, was concluded after three days of negotiation between members of the sixman team from the Soviet Union and the Jamaican team, led by minister of state with responsibility for transport, the Hon. Francis Tulloch.

GOVERNMENT SEEKS PHYSICIANS OVERSEAS

FL131705Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 10 Apr 78 pp 1, 11 FL

[Excerpt] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 9 Apr (CANA)--The Government of Jamaica is seeking medical personnel overseas to beef up its health services, hard hit by the exodus of qualified Jamaicans and other staff over the past two years. The government placed an advertisement in the March 18 issue of the prestigious BRITISH MEDICAL JCURNAL for six categories of personnel, but did not specify how many of each it needed except in the last two where it asked for one each. The exodus from Jamaica of doctors and other professionals followed the political turmoil in which the country found itself when conservative elements and the opposition resisted Prime Minister Michael Manley's moves towards democratic socialism.

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